

A proclamation set furthe by the Kynges Maiesty, with the aduise of his most honorable priuey counsaill, for the valuacon of the Shillinges and grotes to a meaner and lower value and rate.



Whereas, the late king of most famous memory, king Henry the. viii. father vnto our most redoubted souereigne Lord the Kinges maiesty that now is, considering at the beginning of his last warres, that great & notable summes of money, wer requisite to be provided for the maintenance and supportacion of thesame, did therfore deuise, to abace, and diminishe the goodnes of the Coyne, and therupon, caused to be coyned and setfurth to be currant amonges his subiectes, certein peces of mony called Testons valuing thesame at. xii. s. sterl. the pece, and likewise, grotes of thesame bacenes, after the rate of. iiii. s. sterl. the pece. After which time, our said souereigne lord that now is, perceauing, that aswell straungers in fozein partes, as diuers lewde persons within this realme, did by reason of the bacenes of thesayde Coyne, counterfaict no small quantitie of like mony: His Maiestie therfore mynding to remedy thesame, deuised and caused to be coined and setfurth, to be currant with in this Realme, and other his dominions, other peces of mony called Shillinges and grotes, vnder another stampe, likewise valuing thesaid Shillinges, at. xii. s. sterl. the pece, and the grotes at. iiii. s. sterl. the pece.

Forasmuch as this notwithstanding, it hath appered sithens most certainly, vnto our said souerein Lord, and to his highnes counsaill, that not onely diuers straungers of beyonde the seas, but also sūdy false and naughty Personnes within this Realme, haue in like maner, from time to time, counterfaicted and falsely coyned the sayde Shillinges and Grotes, set furthe by our saide Souereygne Lorde, and with the same counterfaicte and false Monies, in greate and notable Summes, do trafficque and bie al manner of victualles, Wares and other kinde of Merchandizes, geuyng they care not what Prices for the same: Where vpon hath risen one greate and special occasion of so greate dearthe, of all maner of thinges as at this day dothe appere among all men, to the greate losse of his maiestie and his subiectes, and to the greate flaunder of the whole Realme, and to the empouerishment of euery man in his Degree, that hath thesame mony, and woulde kepe it in store. His Maiestie therfore gratiouly considering, with the good aduise of the Lordes, and others of the priue counsaill, what greate benefite, commodite and reputation shal arise and folow very shortly after, to the whole body of the realme, if that thesayde Coines wer amended, and brought to such a finenesse, as may make thesame certaine, like as in times past it hath bene. Albeit that thesayde firste abacement of the Coyne was greatly beneficiall vnto his sayde Maiesties father of famous memory, and also to the King our Souereigne Lorde that now is, yet his Maiestie considering that this amendement of the coyne shalbe bothe great honoz to this Realme, and also a merueilous benefite vnto the whole common wealthe, for the bringing doune of the highe prices of all thinges, hath like a most gracious Prince determined to refozme thesame. And forasmuche as thys can not be broughte to passe onelesse the sayde mony called Shillinges, coyned by his maiesty, and grotes coyned both by his maiesty, and by the king his father, might be rated at a value, moze nere vnto the goodnes and finenes of thesame, then now they be rated at, whiche thing taking place, his highnes with al the speede that maye be, determineth to refozme this present coine, and to bzing it (with goddes leaue) to suche perfect goodnes and finenesse, as shal geue all his louing subiectes greate cause to reioyce. Therefore his maiestie doth ordeine and determine, that from and after the last Day of August now nexte ensuyng, the sayd Shillinges coyned and setfurth by his Maiestie, shalbe currant within this Realme of Englands, and the towne of Caleis and Marches of the same, for. ix. s. sterl. and not aboue, & the sayde grotes at. iiii. s. sterl. & not aboue. And therfore straightly chargeth and comaūdeth, al and euery person and persons, of what estate, degre or condicion so euer thesame be, to paye and receaue after the said last day of August the sayde coynes of Shillinges for. ix. s. sterl. and thesayd grotes for. iiii. s. sterl. And for no higher, or lower price, within this his highnes realme, & the towne of Caleis & Marches of thesame, vpon paine of forfeiture to his maiesty, of suche somes of mony as shalbe paid or receaued otherwise then by this proclamation is setfurth, and also vpon paine of imprisonment with a further fine to be set vpon thoffendozs, at his maiesties pleasure. Geuen the last of Aprill, in the. v. yere of the reigne of our sayd souereigne Lorde King Edward the. vi.

God saue the King.

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excudebat.
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